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## WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTSLIBRARY  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

MAY 5 - 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

War work reports from nine State extension services show major activity in helping farm people increase food production, meet the farm labor shortage, understand rationing programs, plant Victory Gardens, meet marketing problems, protein feed requirements, and many other wartime problems. Summaries of the reports follow.

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## ALABAMA

March 1, 1943

Fire prevention.- To encourage farmers to protect their farm woodlands against fire, Extension printed and distributed through community and neighborhood leaders 250,000 copies of illustrated folder on fire hazards, and of fire hazard check sheets, and 20,000 copies of agreement to prevent burning of woodlands and crop residues. Check sheet and agreement carried to each home, where leader checked fire hazards and left copy with family. Member of family signed agreement, which leader returned to county agent's office for future reference.

Negro work.- More emphasis being placed on livestock as cash crop to help war effort and also to offset loss of manpower to work usual row crops. Plans made to grow adequate feed crops and pastures for increased livestock. Negro farmers urged to increase acreage of fresh fruits and vegetables because of rationing of processed fruits and vegetables. Organization of farm families on community and neighborhood basis continued. This type of organization familiarizes farmers with changes in procedures and helps them comply with various requirements.

## CONNECTICUT

March 4, 1943

Farm labor.- Extension's responsibilities in recruiting, training, and placement of farm labor discussed with all members of staff in two conferences, and organization for undertaking job proceeding rapidly. Farm management specialist heads program, with full-time assistant. Now working with State Department of Education on plans for recruiting youths in the 139 high schools of State as Victory Farm Volunteers. Private secondary schools will also be included, contact being made by Extension. In each county one staff member will be responsible for VEV program, and work with school supervisors and

Summary No. 45

March 12, 1943

307-43

principals. One phase of labor program is training of women for farm work. Training in dairy farm, poultry farm, and dairy plant work being given at University. Vegetable and fruit work will be added in April. Course opened February 15 with 12 women, of whom 11 finished and were given certificates. All available as farm hands have been placed. Several women returned to farms which they own or want to develop for food production during war emergency.

War Garden Week.-- Week of March 1 proclaimed by Governor as "War Garden Week." Planting of gardens and home preservation of food urged. Proclamation launched Home Food Supply for Victory campaign, carried on in counties by home demonstration agents, assisted by nutrition committees and neighborhood leaders. House-to-house canvass will sign up women for canning program and also ascertain who wants a garden plowed, wants canning demonstrations, or needs canning equipment. Canning goals set at 50 quarts canned vegetables and 35 quarts fruit for each member of family.

Machinery and equipment.-- Working with State Defense Council, extension engineer has conferred with ice cream manufacturers on converting their equipment to freezing and storing of food products. Several manufacturers are interested.

Tests completed on use of home dehydrator, heated with electric light bulbs; can be constructed at moderate cost and will successfully dehydrate variety of products. Dehydrator given radio and newspaper publicity and construction plans offered. One lumber company and several electric light companies planning manufacture for sale. Two State institutions will build large units for own use.

4-H Clubs buy bomber.-- Arrangements cleared with Treasury Department for "buy-a-bomber" campaign among club members. Their purchases of war bonds will be recorded by leaders and at end of year total amount will be reported. Depending on this amount, the clubs will "buy" light bomber, medium bomber, or Flying Fortress, and Treasury officials state that "Connecticut 4-H Clubs" will be stenciled on plane before it leaves factory.

Information.-- Circular issued on "Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables," bulletin on "War Gardens," leaflet on "Jobs of the Month."

#### DELAWARE

February 1, 1943

Extension neighborhood volunteers.-- Some of original neighborhoods found too large are reorganized and additional leaders selected. All counties sent letters to neighborhood leaders outlining Federal income tax and accounting service to be given farmers by extension specialists. Leaders will be given cards to use in suggesting topics for informational letters.

Farm labor.-- Extension leaders assisted State farm labor committee appointed by State War Board to develop farm labor program. Statistical data furnished and communications prepared to send to key officials of WMC, FSA, and USES. County agents working with Army liaison officer on requests for release of farm workers previously inducted into service, and with Selective Service boards on deferment cases involving farm workers.

Extension workers arranged for conferences and action in Sussex County to select sites for two additional farm labor camps. Data supporting requests were provided.

USDA War Boards.- County agents, specialists, and supervisors participated in planning and putting into effect farm mobilization meetings and programs. State and county production goals prepared by agricultural planning specialist. Assistance was given War Boards in solving problems of poultry growers caused by price ceilings and coal and feed shortages.

Agricultural outlook.- Agricultural and farm family outlook material was discussed with county workers by home management and agricultural planning specialists. Extension circular on this subject printed; 15,000 copies distributed.

Victory Gardens.- Home demonstration agents cooperating closely with State Victory Garden committee and will serve as county leaders. Extension Service is furnishing subject matter and publicity. Goals set for 9,000 farm gardens. Enrollment in 4-H Club garden project expected to double that of 1942 enrollment.

Information.- 19 farm news releases and 15 farm news radio scripts prepared, all dealing with war emergency program.

New printed material: Wartime Fertilizer Recommendations; Extension Service Food Production Certificates; Wartime Folder No. 4, Delaware's Farm and Home Front in 1943; 4-H Victory Program Folder.

MONTANA  
March 1, 1943

District conferences.- Labor training program, wartime 4-H Club program, and plans for Victory Gardens discussed with extension agents at series of district conferences in February. Labor program includes recruitment and training of urban youth and labor from other sources, and cooperation with interested agencies. 4-H program deals with wartime production and labor needs. Garden program, organized through neighborhood leaders, will be designed to meet food requirements under wartime restrictions.

War production problems.- In cooperation with BAE and Experiment Station, arrangements made for work in six counties to obtain information on war production problems from representative farmers and ranchers. Discussion meetings held in two counties to obtain similar information from larger groups of farm people. Information to be compiled in regional report, and local data will be furnished counties where work has been done.

Goal revisions.- Assistance given State War Board in revision of county goals for flax, peas, beans, and potatoes.

Irrigation practices.- Information on hay and pasture production to increase milk output on new irrigation areas given by irrigation specialist at meeting on Sun River Reclamation Project. Irrigation methods and irrigated crop production covered at farmers' school on same project. Job outline on furrow methods of irrigating potatoes prepared for use in labor training schools.



NEW YORK  
March 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Seriousness of problem has called for more intensive program just being launched. Extension's responsibilities include mobilization campaign to make full use of all available help within counties, and educational program with these aims: Help inexperienced people make adjustment to farm work and to rural living; develop better understanding of use of unskilled labor; cut down on time required for new workers to learn the job; reduce wastage of materials, damage to equipment, and accidents to persons; provide farm conditions more favorable to saving labor and using it efficiently; encourage greater neighborhood cooperation in exchanging labor and sharing equipment; make work on farm easier and more productive through application of principles of motion economy.

Marketing fruits and vegetables.- State-wide conference of representative producers, consumers, wholesalers, and retailers met with college specialists to consider problems in distributing fruits and vegetables. Attention given to grades and standards, labor shortages, containers, production goals, price ceilings. State War Council will be requested to set up depots for receiving and distributing used containers, boxes, baskets, burlap and cotton bags, and to work out plan for salvaging usable containers in Army camps. Extension will take lead in keeping producers and trade fully informed and will urge farmers to purchase both new and old containers as early as possible. Some changes in grades will probably be called for, to eliminate certain fancy grades not closely related to nutritive values. More educational work necessary to break down consumer prejudice against topped vegetables. Saving to be made by keeping bulky tops on farm is considerable.

Victory Gardens.- Public interest overwhelming. Organization county and city garden councils proceeding rapidly. Extension has already begun training schools for both urban and rural garden leaders. Detail presented will vary with needs of different groups. Instruction to be timed to meet seasonal needs.

Soil conservation.- Short, intensive drive being made to encourage contour planting in areas where it is a factor in yield, and to stimulate draining of wet spots in otherwise good fields.

Protein feed.- Feed manufacturers and dealers cooperating in program to conserve short supplies protein feeds. County agents will sponsor meetings of county feed dealers to give them latest college recommendations.

Merchant-consumer conferences.- Conferences held many counties to discuss store services in wartime, promote better understanding between homemakers, producers, and merchants.

Point rationing.- Extension representatives have met with several groups where point rationing system has been explained to "explainers" who will work in stores to assist homemakers with shopping. Home demonstration agents and county nutrition leaders teach nutrition in relation to point rationing system, help homemakers to shop wisely and get most food value from money and ration points.

Nutrition school.- Extension in cooperation with editor of small daily newspaper planned and conducted nutrition school in an industrial section. Specialist and two home demonstration agents gave demonstrations. Session of school held each week for 4 weeks, attended by 500 homemakers. Homemakers filled out enrollment blanks, furnishing information about size of family, number of workers, number lunches packed, additional help wanted from Extension, etc. Information, when summarized, will be helpful to agent in setting up extension program for area.

4-H Clubs.- Five 4-page leaflets soon available for promoting special projects for younger club members. Each describes a "war job" - mother's helper, housekeeper, family fire warden, salvage and trash collector. "War jobs" planned for "lone" members as well as for those who live where they can join an organized club. Will encourage youngsters to take over more of work at home to release mother and others for farm work or other war work.

Reports from 4-H Club Farm Fire Prevention Contest in 35 counties show a total of 5,388 club members completing, with at least three inspection blanks filled out by each.

OREGON  
February 1

Food for Freedom.- Teams made up of representatives of State War Board, AAA, and Extension visited every county in State to explain production goals, counsel in setting up goals, and assist in outlining food and food program and farm mobilization in county. Attendance at meetings totaled 1,700. Teams held follow-up meetings in each county, at which AAA committeemen and supervisors were given additional information and instructions on sign-up program; 975 attended. Handbook prepared as source of factual information for farm leaders, members State and county War Boards, AAA committeemen and supervisors, and others participating in program.

Victory Gardens.- State Victory Garden conference of all interested agencies and organizations held at State College, followed by garden conferences each county under auspices county agent. Program expanded to include family food supply. State staff members to visit each county. All rural families to be reached through neighborhood leaders. Information material includes handbook for neighborhood leaders, bulletin on farm and home vegetable garden, and on planning family food supply, and post card list of useful publications on family food supply and important Oregon food crops.

Meat.- Basic information on production and conservation of meat prepared for distribution through neighborhood leaders.

Production.- Meetings dealing with production and production problems, held late December and early January, included dairying, livestock, poultry management, crops, particularly seed crops and war crops. Special attention given to aiding farmers in selecting crops and practices which must be followed because of inability of farmers to accomplish customary fall seeding due to adverse weather and labor shortage. Attendance and interest at meetings excellent.

Transportation.- County farm transportation committees continued to serve effectively in assisting farmers with requests for certificates of war necessity. Under agreement with USDA War Board, four district transportation conferences of extension agents held in December for discussion of detailed procedures. Agents in turn instructed county transportation committees. Orderly procedure developed for farmers to file appeals, resulting in correction of many difficulties arising from original erroneous procedure.

Farm labor.- In cooperation with USES and Selective Service, cooperative farm labor plans worked out for 1943. Extension will provide current information on acreage and volume of production of various crops requiring seasonal labor. County agents will serve as secretaries of county farm labor committees, and Extension, through its farm labor project leader, will assist these committees in meeting local labor problems. Committees will play important part in recruitment, training, and placement of nonfarm youth for summer work on farms.

Home demonstration agents.- Agents in 15 counties instructed homemakers in care and repair of clothing, care and repair of equipment, recreation, nutrition, and family food supply. They held 43 leader-training meetings, with attendance of 869. These leaders, in turn, conducted 968 meetings, with total attendance of 11,510.

4-H Clubs.- Food production clubs emphasized; many 4-H members taking more responsibility in providing family's food supply. Canning and processing clubs also organized, along with sewing clubs. With many rural communities having little or no medical service, health clubs being formed in larger numbers.

PUERTO RICO  
February 1, 1943

Health and welfare.- Eight milk stations established during January, feeding 865 children. 57 women received nutrition certificates; 17 completed standard first aid course. Canteen course started with 37 women enrolling; served 165 undernourished children and 200 adults in 3 rural communities. Three district nursery schools sponsored and established by club women. In 3 districts, 297 physical examinations of girls and club women made, including tests for malaria, hookworm disease; 110 cases vaccinated against smallpox.

Food production. - Continued emphasis on importance of food production for local consumption. Forty-four food production demonstrations started. Farm families who did outstanding work will be awarded certificate of recognition signed by director of extension and chancellor of university. Neighborhood leaders continue to be selected.

Cotton.- Campaign started among northern and northwestern farmers to increase acreage and production of long-staple Sea Island cotton which is needed in war effort. On southern coast agents helped farmers in controlling cotton leaf-worm.

Fertilizer.- Agents have assisted farmers in obtaining fertilizer from USDA War Board by filling out permits.



Dairy feed.- With rationing of dairy feed, farmers have been given advice and assistance in filling out questionnaires for permits.

Information.- Definite plans made for publication of farm page in "El Mundo." Extension editor furnishing 5 articles for first issue. Regular extension radio broadcast changed from weekly to twice-a-week program. Eight War Board programs broadcast by assistant extension editor.

## TEXAS

March 1, 1943

Farm mobilization.- Program of subdistrict meetings to promote essential war-time activities continued throughout February. Headquarters specialists met with county agent groups in each of 12 extension districts. Technical discussions or practical demonstrations, or both, made up each meeting.

Victory Gardens.- Series training schools conducted by extension horticulturist in early-producing areas resulted in thousands of pounds vegetable seed being planted. Principals of schools are taking lead in urging pupils to sign pledges to grow gardens. School gardens being planted in rural communities. In cities, service and garden clubs, stores, and newspapers rendering fine service in sponsoring program. Seedsman report heaviest sale of garden seed on record. To keep program active, county agents divide garden meetings into three divisions - early plantings, including frost-hardy vegetables; warm-weather vegetables and tomatoes; Irish and sweet potatoes.

Feed.- Two conferences called by director of extension in February to study protein food shortage in State. Committees appointed to survey vegetable protein requirements. Survey revealed substantial potential shortages. Two general suggestions made: Assure best possible distribution of limited protein supply; encourage greatest possible importation of soybeans for crushing in Texas oil mills.

Many counties participating in cooperative feed-buying program. Sixteen counties report buying 190 carloads.

Poultry.- Hatcheries report heavy early booking of chicks. Farmers urged to buy chicks near home to lessen transportation. Indications that Texas 1943 production goal for eggs and poultry will be met without difficulty.

Dairy.- Dairyman's score card, designed to help agents in analyzing dairyman's set-up and determining weaknesses and progress, explained to group meetings of agents in 6 extension districts. Specialist made radio talks and prepared press releases on grazing wheat or oats as means of relieving shortage of protein supplement feeds.

Cattle grub control.- Control through use of cube-sulfur pushed vigorously. Demonstrations of three methods of application given in 28 counties.

Farm records and income tax.- Explanatory matter pertaining to income returns by farmers and ranchmen prepared and made available to farm families. Importance of farm records emphasized at round-table discussions with small groups of county agents.

Meat.- Meat-cutting demonstrations held. Emphasis placed on need of using to best advantage meats civilians can buy.

Home management.- Information on rationing and other current questions given to 54 home demonstration agents and 22 county agents in group meetings. Related wartime topics included family financial planning and general home management.

Negro activities.- Orchard pruning and spraying, and location and collection of varieties of fruit cuttings for propagation, principal activity in Negro extension work two counties. Five meat curing and storage demonstrations conducted five communities Smith County, with total 51 Negro farmers taking part and more than 10,000 pounds meat checked. Negro farm families Gregg County have increased egg production 50 percent over production first 2 months of 1942. Meetings attended by 127 Negro farm families Matagorda County were devoted to demonstrations on planning for food production in 1943. Home Victory Gardens emphasized.

WYOMING  
March 1, 1943

Victory Gardens.- Series of 4 district meetings under way on technique of planting and growing a garden, canning and preserving garden crops, and their use in the diet. Meetings, planned especially for Smith-Hughes economics teachers and local garden project leaders, conducted jointly by extension specialists in nutrition and horticulture.

Food rationing.- Nutrition specialist has met homemaker groups in five counties past month to inform, instruct, and prepare the farm women for rationing. Subjects discussed: Share the meat, meat extenders, point rationing, balanced diets. Home demonstration agents meeting greater demand for demonstrations in meal planning using rationed food. They train local project leaders in planning balanced meals based on the 48 ration points. Emphasis placed on advance planning of meals to insure adequate diet for the family.

4-H Clubs.- All counties urged to promote organization of clubs, with emphasis on food-producing projects.

Information.- Material prepared for food production program included The Wartime Family Food Supply, Vegetables for Wyoming, Directory of Hatcheries, Home-made Poultry Equipment. News stories prepared for county papers on various wartime subjects.